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APPLICATION NUMBER	FILING/RECEIPT DATE	FIRST NAMED APPLICANT	ATTORNEY DOCKET NUMBER
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10/612,098

07/02/2003

Christian E.
Schafmeister

214001-01024-1

CONFIRMATION NO.

3437

ECKERT SEAMANS CHERIN & MELLOTT
600 GRANT STREET
44TH FLOOR
PITTSBURGH PA 15219

Date Mailed: February 17, 2005

NOTICE OF IMPROPER LETTER OF EXPRESS ABANDONMENT

The letter of express abandonment under 37 CFR 1.138 is improper for reason(s) indicated below:

1. The letter of express abandonment was not signed by a party authorized under 37 CFR 1.33(b)(1), (b)(3), or (b)(4). A registered practitioner, not of record, who acts in a representative capacity under 37 CFR 1.34 when filing a continuing application, may only expressly abandon the prior application as of the filing date granted to the continuing application. See 37 CFR 1.138(b).

2. The letter of express abandonment was not filed prior to the payment of the issue fee, and no petition under 37 CFR 1.313 was granted. If this application has not yet issued as a patent, applicant may wish to consider filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.313 to withdraw this application from issue.

3. The letter of express abandonment was not filed prior to the issuance of the patent.

4. The letter of express abandonment was not filed prior to the abandonment of the application. A notice of abandonment was mailed to the applicant on _____.

Inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to the Pre-Grant Publication Division at (703) 308-9250, extension 410.

Barbara J. Debnam
Pre-Grant Publication Division